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LETTER DATED 19 SEPTEMBER 1995 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have been instructed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, His Excellency Mr. Muhamed Sacirbey, to convey to you that there is no foundation to doubt the positions of the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina with reference to the basic principles established in Geneva on 8 September 1995 and agreed to by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). The actions of the defence forces of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, HVO (Croatian Council of Defense) and parts of the Croatian Army, in Western and Central Bosnia are not calculated to undermine the above-mentioned principles, but are undertaken within the framework of total efforts towards halting the occupiers' terror against the civilian population and preventing further destruction and devastation of the territories currently under occupation.

In particular, these actions have been designed to halt the practice of ethnic cleansing which has intensified in this region in the last several weeks. In this recent process of ethnic cleansing, which has not stopped even after the signing of the Geneva principles, more than 21,000 Bosniac Muslims and Bosnian Croats have been expelled from their homes and their homeland, Bosnia and Herzegovina. This is one other evident sign that the Serbian side is clearly deviating from one of the important points of the agreement achieved with respect to the right of refugees to return to their homes. Those who strive for peace, based on the agreed principles, may not engage in such criminal acts which represent the gravest violation of humanitarian law.

We are convinced that these actions by the Bosnian Army, HVO and Croatian Army will contribute to a more effective achievement of the political solution on the basis of the Geneva Principles.

The Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina has on many occasions invited the population of Serbian nationality from the region of Northwestern and Central Bosnia not to abandon their homes, offering guarantees for their full personal safety, protection of their property and full enjoyment

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of all the rights and liberties that belong to them as citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

His Excellency Mr. Muhamed Sacirbey, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina invited representatives of the Serbian people from the Banja Luka region to a dialogue with the authorities of our Republic, with the aim of reaching a political agreement in order to avoid further fighting, risks, difficulties and possible casualties among the civilian population. Our Minister presented this proposal immediately after the talks held yesterday in Sarajevo with his British counterpart, His Excellency Mr. Malcolm Rifkind, who had been informed of this political initiative.

Within the framework of this agreement, our Government requests the demilitarization of Banja Luka. Consequently, it will guarantee all of the above-mentioned rights and personal safety of all its citizens, and it will refrain from any further actions towards this city. Simultaneously, the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina is ready to extend an invitation to the representatives of the United Nations and international humanitarian organizations to establish a full account of the respect for, and implementation of, this proposed agreement, should it be concluded.

May I ask, Excellency, for your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ivan Z. MISIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.